

NIAGARA NEWS

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12 pages

NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

\$154,000 funding increase

The college will receive a \$154,000 grant increase from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities bringing the 1989/90 projected deficit down to about \$750,000.

The additional "operating funds" come as a result of provisions in the academic staff contract implemented in 1986, Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration, said this week.

The ministry announced a 5.6 per cent increase of \$37.1 million in December. The ministry determined that previous funding was not high enough and the Treasury Board approved the increase in compensation to the province's 22 colleges.

"We felt we were underfunded and subsequently, to their (the ministry's) credit, they had people look at it," Mr. van der Slagt said. "It will go some way towards solving our financial problem."

SLIGHTLY HIGHER

The \$154,000 represents a 3.2 per cent increase in grant, slightly higher than the earlier 2.4 per cent forecast by the college last fall.

Although the capital funding figure for the college has not been released, Gary LaRose, director of financial services, estimated the amount to be about \$720,000, with half going towards instructional equipment and the rest to be used for major renovations.

Despite the grants, the college must "generate more revenue," Mr. LaRose said. Among the

See Budget p. 7



Move that car!

Someone's going to be surprised when they find this expensive little note under the windshield-wiper. Ensign security guards have resorted to handing out parking tickets in an attempt to control illegal parking. You were safe most of last term — but with student attrition there's more than enough parking spots to go around and ticketing has begun in earnest. The city of Welland does not enjoy giving out parking tickets, but wants to control the problem. The college is not profiting from ticketing the cars — the City of Welland gets the money. For more details, see page three.

Photo by Blair Burgess

Council committee hopes to prove need for full-time nurse

A committee of College Council members was assembled on Tuesday to make a formal report and request to the Board of Governors hoping to reinstate a full-time college nurse.

The council hopes to prove the need for a nurse at the Health Centre.

Jacqueline Robarts, college president, said there have been some complaints about the need for a nurse but the board is still following up on its decision last spring that eliminated nursing positions in order to help reduce the college's \$2.3 million deficit.

Bette Ferguson, director of student services, is doing a study and survey "to see what the results are without a nurse," the president said. "She has spoken with the Worker's Compensation Board to see that we're not violating any regulations."

NOT COMPULSORY

She said that the law does not

bind the college to have a nurse on campus; there is only a need for persons schooled in first aid to be made available.

"There has been more training of people in first aid procedures," Miss Robarts said. "The best we can do right now is to review the situation."

Tom Fraser, College Council Chairman, has had first aid training, but is fearful he may not be reached in time if his assistance is needed in a medical emergency.

"What if those with the training can't be found to help out?" Mr. Fraser asked. "Before now, we knew where the nurse was."

The situation at the St. Catharines campus is even more anxious, Lou Orr, College Council member, said.

"We've lost a vital link," she said. "We have no physical or mental counselling. We've lost everything — we've no nurse and no doctor. I'm very, very concerned."

Felix Lostracco resigns

Felix Lostracco, social convener, is resigning from Student Administrative Council because of school work. This will make the third resignation from the council in the 1988/89 school year.

Felix said that sometimes when he asked other council members to help with SAC events, they would say "school work comes first. So

now my school work is coming first."

During Monday's SAC meeting, Felix handed each member of the council a letter and pointed out the paragraph stating he is resigning from the council as it is interfering with his school work. Peter Ruggiero, vice-president of external affairs, said, "School is more important than SAC."

Randy Conlon, SAC president, expressed great regret and said he had no idea that Felix was planning to resign, "not a clue."

"I wasn't shocked, although I didn't really expect it," Elaine Wilson, group representative, said.

Margaret Birney, vice-president of internal affairs, resigned Sept. 15 and was not replaced. Brandy Milne, executive vice-president, resigned Oct. 15 and was replaced by Annarita Scremin by appointment from Randy.

"I don't want to leave; I'm having fun," Felix said. He has offered to help SAC with any activities he has already initiated and plans to continue attending SAC-sponsored events.

"When I get involved in something, I give 100 per cent and it conflicted," he said of trying to juggle all of his SAC responsibilities and his school work.

"I respect his decision and understand his priorities, they're mine too," Elaine said. She added that once he is gone, SAC is going to really notice.

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By TERRY MOORE
Staff Writer

"Kung — hsi — fa — ts' — ai."
If you are a Chinese businessman, you know that one of your colleagues is "respectfully wishing you prosperity" for the New Year. This year, in China, it's the year of the serpent, which represents renewal.

The Spring Holiday, as it is called, is "definitely the most important holiday in China," Dr. Gordon Chen, teaching master in industrial electronics, Niagara College, said. "It is a traditional holiday that is ingrained into the Chinese culture where every family is expected to meet together." It is celebrated like the Canadian Christmas.

Like Christmas, it is a time of year for visiting with family and friends; "traditionally the new year is a holiday of rest," Dr. Chen said. Businesses close down and people have time to visit. Gifts are

given to children, who receive toys and clothes.

At this joyous time of year, members of the Chinese community usually put on an exciting play or festival. "As a child I remember I went to see the dragon dance," a celebration featuring the sacred dragon, which is put on every Spring Festival.

Spring holiday eve is a special time for family get togethers, but the following day is more so. During the holiday, which can last from Jan. 1 — 15, the first three to five days are spent visiting distant relatives such as great aunts and uncles. Then, friends and colleagues are visited, followed by celebrations of banquets and festivals. During the final five days, people prepare to return to work. Spring Festival day is on Feb. 6.

The family banquet is one of the many highlights of the holiday season. It is a time for food, family, and happiness. A variety of

favoured foods, such as chicken and pork are prepared in traditional ways — steaming and stir-frying. The banquet food can take days to prepare.

Special symbolic foods such as a sweets-filled dumpling-like pastry made of rice flour, symbolic of prosperity and longevity, are served only during the Spring Festival. The round shape represents completion, an unbroken sphere.

Each year is popularly known by one of 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac; the sign of the Year of the Serpent falls under Virgo.

According to the Chinese calendar, which is calculated according to the sun's movement, it is now the beginning of spring there. China, being largely agrarian, sets the calendar in accordance to the seasons, so the 15-day holiday allows the farmers to rest, relax, and to prepare for the coming year's hard work.



Winter's first smile

Students at Glynn A. Green Elementary School in Fonthill enjoyed the snowy weather winter cast upon Niagara. The hills around the school provided plenty of entertainment for these boys who didn't even need a toboggan. The chilly temperatures didn't stop them from becoming snow covered and wet.

Photo by Julie Slack

Term end review

Blood clinic a success, designated smoking

By BERNIE PUCHALSKI
Staff Writer

The first semester of the 1988-89 school year will be forever tainted by the heart-breaking image of Ben Johnson hightailing it away from Seoul. There were, however, important developments at Niagara destined to influence the type of students it will attract and the environment they will learn in.

Ben Johnson's debacle at the Olympics hit home to 2,000 students who signed a banner congratulating Ben on his apparent triumph, before they learned of his deceit. The banner was later delivered to Johnson's home by Student Administrative Council president Randy Conlon.

Despite the cancellation of seven programs the college experienced only a one per cent drop in enrolment. Constant clouds of budgetary pressure loomed over the college despite encouraging signs like new program offerings, available funds for college residences, Shaw Festival's aid in relocating the theatre program, funds available for college residences and the building of the \$6.5 million Hospitality Centre.

NO SMOKING

October was the month cigarette smokers learned of the decision to make Niagara smoke-free by Sept. 2, 1989. No word was given on how the policy will be enforced if people refuse to comply. The policy was amended to allow designated smoking areas during the winter term, ending in April,

1989.

October saw the germination of the first college fraternity in Ontario. Alpha Kappa Omega chose a catchy name but by December the brotherhood was racked by internal dissent when president Jonathan Elliot was forced to resign by the 20 members because of a "lack of interest."

In the same way as the seasons change, parking problems were in the news in November. Every year the hassle continues because of a policy of total tolerance followed by an administrative crackdown. It has yet to be decided if the problem is not enough parking or too many people driving too many cars.

BLOOD CLINIC

The blood clinic on Nov. 28 was a success with a total of 247 pints collected. Ambulance and emergency care students captured their sixth straight Corpsuckle Cup and the annual event has now collected a total of 2,470 pints of much-needed blood.

December at the college brought news of an increase of \$900,000 in the projected deficit for the 1989-90 academic year. The budget committee issued terse words which said the college must do all it can to avoid the "downward spiral that is precipitated by program cuts."

1988 will be remembered across Canada for Ben Johnson's downfall but, at Niagara, the year will be remembered for decisions determining the success or failure in keeping the college afloat in tough economic times.

Letters

Convener's resignation tremendous loss

Dear Editor,

On Monday, Jan. 9, 1989, the Student Administrative Council took a tremendous loss when Felix Lostracco resigned from his position as social convener.

I am taking this time now to openly thank Felix for the excellent job he did while he was on

council.

Felix went over and above his duties as social convener and we will all miss him greatly. There are no ill-feelings towards Felix as he makes this decision because we all realize where his priorities are and that is with school. I admire Felix for making this decision as it must have been very difficult for him.

Well, Felix, all the best to you in your future, you deserve it! You'll be greatly missed. There is no way one person could possibly fill your shoes! Good luck, Bud! (FE-LEX).

Thanks for everything,
Randy Conlon
SAC President

Salute to staff writer, job well done

Dear Editor
Re: Fran Yanor

Congratulations on handling two difficult topics — smoking

and College finances — so very well.

I very much appreciate your concern about "getting things

right." Keep up the good work!

Hans van der Slagt
Vice-president
Administration

Apology to campus radio

Dear Editor,

In response to Mr. Robertson's letter in last December's paper, I wish to apologize to Campus Radio, and to all those staff and students who did remember Remembrance Day for my article that was entitled "They Forgot".

I did not hear any radio service being broadcast in the area I was in and I assumed that there was

no service at all.

While I regret any misunderstanding my letter may have caused, I am nevertheless relieved from what I read in Mr. Robertson's letter, that there are still people who care about Remembrance Day and what it stands for. Perhaps there is hope for this world, after all.

Hugh Sutherland

Many thanks

Dear Mr. Puchalski:

Many thanks for sending me your piece in the Niagara News (Writing has charm...Dec. 9). I enjoyed it — and also the piece on Davies.

Please don't apologize for badgering me. Badgering is half of the business.

Sincerely
Robert Fulford

Instructor left for dead

By GAIL ATKINSON
Staff Writer

Ron Patrick was attacked by three men and left for dead in Costa Rica Dec. 28 after being robbed of his passport and all his cash, three days after his arrival in the Central American country.

The Interior Design coordinator was window shopping on a main street in downtown San Jose at 8:30 p.m. when he was suddenly jumped from behind by a man who wrapped his arms around Mr. Patrick's neck in a headlock so tight that he was almost strangled. In the struggle, two other men stripped him of his watch, his glasses and the shoulder bag containing all his identification, traveller's cheques and cash.

"At that point I was on the sidewalk and they were gone. I didn't see them...I was just scared. I was very close to pass-

ing out; I thought I was close to death," he said.

Three teenagers found Mr. Patrick on the sidewalk and after awkward explanations — ("they only spoke Spanish and I only spoke English.") — they carried him to the corner where they met two policemen patrolling the area.

TOOK OFF

"A woman crossed over and gave them a hot tip and they took off. The whole thing had been witnessed by a busload of people. It was dark but it was well lit."

Two additional policemen came by and lent him money for a taxi to return to his hotel where a doctor was waiting. Mr. Patrick was unable to walk as a result of the assault.

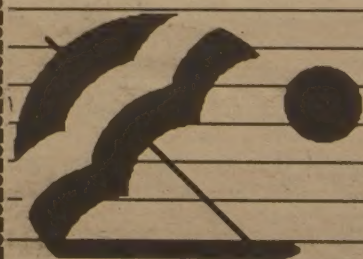
"I had broken my knee last year so it was already no good...the accident twisted ligaments, aggravated it." He returned to Canada in a wheelchair and used

a cane into the first weeks of January. "My throat is still the worst; I had it X-rayed."

Commuting on crutches between the Canadian Embassy and local immigration, Mr. Patrick had to get enough identification to leave Costa Rica. "There wasn't enough time to issue a passport from Ottawa...they issued me papers from the Embassy, then immigration said it wasn't enough to get out of the country...I needed pictures."

"It's a beautiful country," he said. "I think what happened to me was an unfortunate set of coincidences. What lesson can be learned from this? I don't know yet. I've written the Costa Rican ambassador and to Fiesta tours for them to make tourists aware that it just isn't secure as it is in Canada. Yet it is probably more secure in Costa Rica than anywhere else in Central America."

NOTICE



Last chance to register for Spring Break

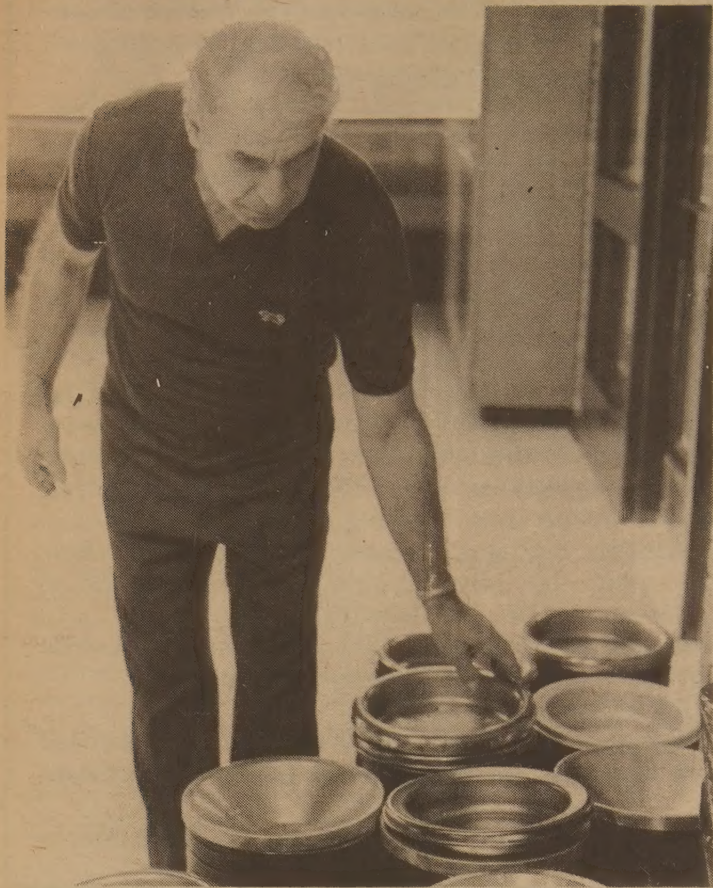
Trips to Dominican Republic, Acapulco,

Fort Lauderdale, Mont. Ste. Anne.

Visit the S. A. C. office for more details!

Final date to sign up is Friday, January 27, 1989.

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The first phase of the college's new policy of smoking in designated areas is now in effect. Maintenance man Ralph Mancuso removed some temptation for smokers when he cleared out superfluous ashtrays from the Simcoe block on Jan. 3.

Photo by Fran Yanor

Smokeless era here, no problems reported

Jan. 2 signalled the beginning of hiking season for smokers as the college's new policy of smoking in designated areas went into effect.

Smokers must now restrict their habits to any of the eight areas designated within the college. They are:

Welland Campus: main complex — foyer and corridor adjacent to mini-cafeteria; corridor behind Hamilton Room in the Simcoe block; Merritt lounge near vending machines.

Black Walnut: section of the cafeteria.

Mackenzie: first corridor on south-east side of building.

Hennepin: lounge adjacent to Board Room.

St. Catharines Campus: cloakroom 202 (second floor); north end of cafeteria (third floor).

The removal of ashtrays and the posting of no-smoking signs marked the commencement of a new era at Niagara as it moves towards a smoke-free environment. This comes as a result of the Board of Governors' approval of

a two-phase smoking policy that will find the college completely smoke-free by Sept. 5.

At present no problems have been reported with enforcement of the policy, one of the main concerns voiced before its implementation. Since no extra personnel has been hired to monitor adherence to the new regulations, administration was unsure if problems would result from the limited ban. Compliance has instead been left up to each individual in the college.

Despite the faint smell of smoke that gently wafts out from beneath bathroom doors, no enforcement problems have been reported with the policy, one of the main concerns voiced before its implementation. Since no extra personnel was hired to oversee adherence to the new regulations, administration was unsure if problems would result from the limited ban.

Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration and chairman of the smoking committee, said, "Even smokers seem to recognize that this is an inevitable route for the college to take."

Mr. van der Slagt, believes that "fewer people will smoke" as a result of the new restrictions. Feedback he has received has been mostly positive with the exception of complaints about "the concentration of smoke" in the smoking areas, a situation, he said, the college is "monitoring."

There has been some confusion as to the policy's application to private offices. Smoking is prohibited there too, he said, "Air that circulates out of the offices eventually gets sucked into other rooms."

New pub manager

Andy Roy, manager of the Atlas Hotel, has been hired as the Pub Manager by Niagara College Administration as a replacement for Hugo Bessems, International Student Advisor.

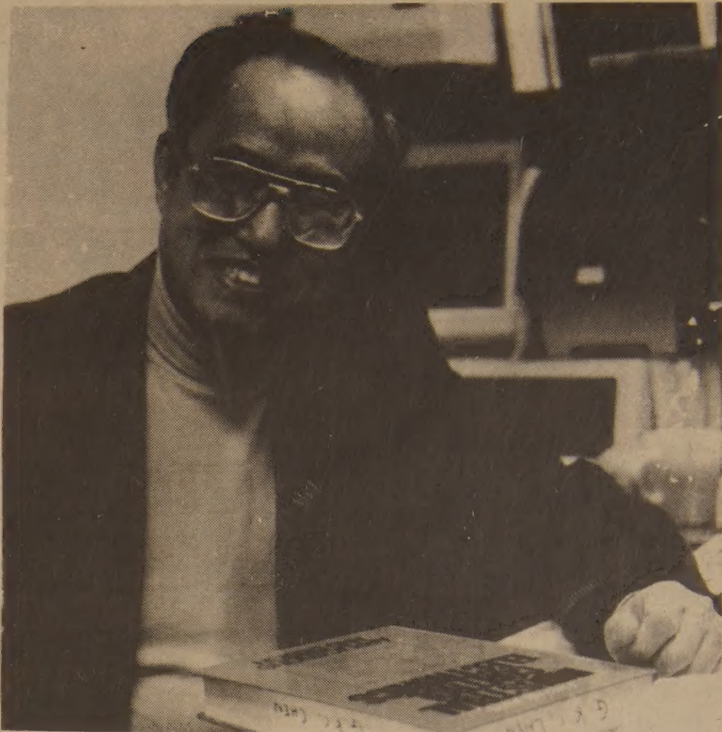
Administration placed an ad in the Welland Tribune for a pub manager during the Christmas holidays, because "they wanted somebody separate from the school," Donna Flutur, Student Administrative Council office manager, said. They were looking for someone having no connection with Niagara at all.

Regardless of the fact that SAC pays the salary for Mr. Roy, administration has taken control of who gets the job, she said.

Qualifications for the job are as follows:

"The incumbent must be a mature, assertive, responsible individual with good communication and human relations skills. Must be able to act independently and use good judgment; able to use basic accounting procedures; and should have knowledge of LCBO (Liquor Control Board of Ontario) regulations. Must be bondable. Also must be able to relate well with students and administration."

The planning, operation and supervision of all on-campus student pub related activities are the responsibility of the pub manager. Mr. Roy will report to Bette Ferguson, director of student services.



DR. GORDON CHEN

College teacher takes on extra challenge

Dr. Gordon Chen, teaching master of industrial electronics, has been elected chairman of the central Canada council of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the prima technical society worldwide in the electrical, electronic and computer field.

Dr. Chen's jurisdiction as chairman will encompass the Kingston, Peterborough, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Toronto sections. His duties are to coordinate and facilitate the efforts of the various chapters to serve the members and the public.

Over the past 14 years, Dr. Chen has assumed numerous responsibilities in varying

capacities for the organization. In 1974, Dr. Chen founded the Niagara College student branch, and he served as student faculty adviser. He has been chairman of the IEEE education chapter and the IEEE computer chapter. He eventually became the chairman of the Hamilton section.

The new position in the organization will be for two years, and during that time Dr. Chen said he will try to strengthen the link between education and the private sector.

THREE COUNCILS

The Canadian Region of the IEEE is divided into three separate councils — western, central and eastern — of which the central council is responsible for 5,500 members. Of the 5,500 members, there are 20 colleges and universities that are active in student chapters. In the future, Dr. Chen hopes to add to that number.

Since its conception in 1974, Niagara College student branch, under the guidance of faculty advisers "has turned out to be one of the most active student branches," Dr. Chen said. "The college has supported its development, so the college deserves a lot of recognition in my election." Some of the other faculty advisers have been Frank Cicarelli, Joe Kopec, Wayne McCreadie, and the current adviser, Phil Scoones.

IS VOLUNTEER

"Extra-curricular activity like the IEEE is volunteer work, and you don't do it because you expect to be elected one day as chairman. As a professional you need to keep abreast of changes in your field."

Dr. Chen said there are many advantages to belonging to the IEEE while still in school. "A potential employer will recognize your extra interest in keeping up with current developments, and in keeping in contact with people in the industry. He then knows your knowledge is not limited to the textbook. The benefit is a professional calling card making membership a real enhancer to the student's resume."

It's surprising, but for being one of the smaller colleges, Niagara has a really good reputation in the industry and throughout the IEEE, particularly outside of the Niagara Region, Dr. Chen said.

Parking tickets galore, more to follow

Parking tickets may be expected by drivers who insist on parking illegally on college property.

An Ensign Security guard is leaving reminders that parking rules at the college will be enforced. A \$5 ticket, payable to the city of Welland, is the penalty; parking in the designated handicapped spots will cost \$10.

For now, towing away of vehicles has been halted, but Jack Spittle, director of property and plant services, warned that the tow trucks will be called again if the problem gets bad enough.

Mr. Spittle said the tow trucks were only called because the parking problem was "getting critical; transit drivers were threatening not to drive through."

CREATE PROBLEMS

At this time of year, parking lots are not full, but people arriving late, or not following "first-come, first-served" procedure create a problem for everybody.

"I emphasize that the college is not on a campaign to raise money for the city of Welland," Mr. Spittle said. "It is with great reluctance that any tickets are handed out, but when common sense is negated, something must be done to keep order."

The parking problem is compounded by the bad weather, "but as a rule, students are pretty good about lining things up."

"If people would use the spots

on a first-come, first-served basis, then probably no other tickets would have to be written," Mr. Spittle said.

Cars, regardless of how they are parked, are not ticketed at the start of the school year because the parking lots will not handle the number of cars arriving each day, but by the Thanksgiving weekend the number of vehicles in the parking lot drops dramatically.

Mr. Spittle said tickets are not written at the college until the number of cars arriving each day corresponds with the number of available parking spots.

Hungry?

A fundraising dinner will be held Feb. 3 at the CAW hall, 124 Bunting Rd., St. Catharines. Speaker Joseph Collins, the co-director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy in San Francisco, California, will discuss the problem of world hunger.

The dinner is sponsored by the Brock branch of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group and the Worldwide International Awareness Centre.

The dinner will include an auction, door prizes and raffles. Tickets at \$15 and \$12 are available by calling 641-2525 or 688-5550, ext. 3499.



Editorials

Policy confuses many Premier scuppers unity

Organization up in smoke, implementation to blame

Smoking areas at the college were designated only on the first day back from Christmas holiday break instead of weeks before. The new year's resolution appears to be to segregate smokers from ventilated areas of all campuses, in long dark corridors, some far from doors, further restricting mobility and now preventing respiration.

Signs in the mini-caf that advise No Smoking in this Area are futile, for there is no escape for either smokers or non-smokers from the wafting clouds near it and all food service outlets. Who enjoys inhaling before, during or after their dinner or on their way to the health centre, also adjacent to a designated smoking area?

Ashtrays remained for the first two or three hours in their familiar locales. Cleaning and maintenance staff were as uninformed as to the locations as the rest of the college population. The designing, printing and taping up posters was shoddy, ineffectual and confusing. Who knew what was going on and where?

The college population is to be commended in spite of the poorly organized process. There was no great rebellion or defiance by smokers and an apparent acceptance by non-smokers.

Gail Atkinson

A Canadian who called police after an earthquake rattled eastern Canada in December suggested its cause was the Fathers of Confederation rolling in their graves over free trade; they are undoubtedly reeling over the latest Canadian tragedy.

Quebec premier Robert Bourassa insists that invoking the notwithstanding clause against the Supreme Court ruling that struck down Quebec's French-only sign law was necessary because the Meech Lake accord has not been ratified; in other words, in case Meech was not ratified, English would have no place in Quebec.

His better-safe-than-sorry-language safeguard means reneging of his 1985 election promise to restore bilingual signs, the raping of 800,000 anglophones' freedom of expression of rights, and the impending demise of the Meech Lake accord.

Although Quebec condescended to remain in Canada after the 1980 referendum, it has yet to sign the Constitution. To secure its signature, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who was powerless to override Mr. Bourassa's actions, offered the Meech Lake accord to officially recognize Quebec as a "distinct society".

The thumbnosing Mr. Bourassa has made it abundantly clear how distinct Quebec is; pity that only Manitoba, which has withdrawn its support of Meech, realizes just how distinct.

If Quebec wants to forsake English, fine; but Canada cannot be expected to further tolerate French. An eye for an eye.

To Hades with bilingualism.

If it is true that Canada is bonded by the respect and tolerance of its two major languages, those bonds lack the strength of even silly putty.

Terry Moore

Wizard of Id



Bullpit

Puff, puff to fullest, September '89 cometh

By BERNIE PUCHALSKI
Staff Writer

This is a notice to those who continue to puff away on filter-tipped death-distributors. Non-smokers acknowledge your right to commit suicide but genocide is everyone's concern.

Designated smoking is the beginning of the end of society's tolerance of smoke-entombed horror chambers known as the hallways of Niagara. The administration has cast out a lifeline to you and it should be firmly

grasped with both nicotine-stained hands.

Not only will quitting enhance your longevity on earth but the awful odor which has permeated into the core of your very existence will disappear. Our carcinogen-laden environment tosses endless and unseen killers at us daily and people should not in any way try to impair the already perilous odds.

Listen to your body if you won't listen to reason. The green pieces you have been coughing up every morning are not phlegm but

pieces of your lung. Healthy specimens should not be getting winded opening small cellophane wrappers. Remember back to when you could walk to the refrigerator without breaking into a sweat?

If you insist on your right to smoke in public, take heart! By September 1989 you probably will still be able to smoke in the parking lot. Isolated by society in much the same way as ancient sufferers of leprosy, these purveyors of puff will have to quit or shiver their way through the winter of 1989.

Early start adopted, attendance is issue

An early starting time, which some student members had said might be difficult, was adopted by the College Council Tuesday.

Newly elected chairman Tom Fraser said the executive had met with members of the former steering committee and decided that 3:30 p.m. would be a better starting time than the 4:30 p.m. outlined in the council constitution.

At the Dec. 13 council meeting, Mr. Fraser said the early start would improve attendance. However, at the time, student members Gord Bonisteel and Kelly Stock said they would have to miss classes to attend.

Janet Forfar, membership chairman, referred to poor attendance — usually about 30 of 52 members — at Tuesday's meeting.

"There are a number of endangered species on council," she said. According to the constitution, members must attend regularly or they will be forced to resign.

The December meeting stated that the executive would "investigate the possibility of starting the meetings at 3:30 p.m., with the timetables of faculty and student members of council adjusted to make them free for periods 8 and 9 on Tuesdays."

Gord, who did not attend Tuesday's meeting, said recently, "I'll be able to live with it, but I don't think they considered the students too much."

The horticultural representative said he talked about it with coordinator Peter Mansfield, who told him it was "impossible" to change the schedule so that periods 8 and 9 would be free in horticulture.

Kelly, whose clinical nursing sessions conflict, said Tuesday that her instructor could arrange free time for her to go to the monthly meetings. "If it does come out that I can attend, then sure," she said.

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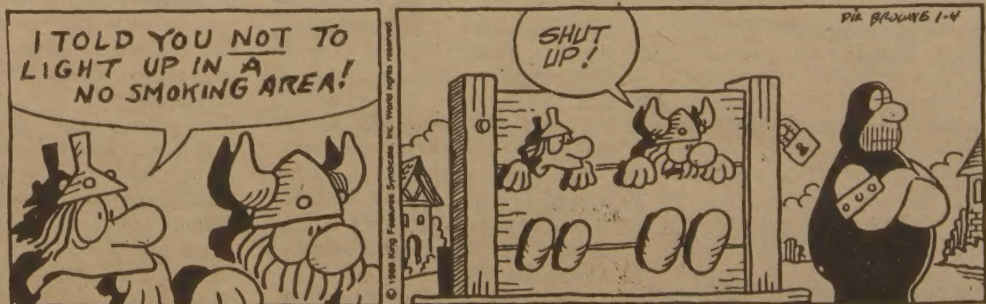
Niagara News

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Hagar & Horrible



FOCUS

'Trip of lifetime'

NC trio return from China

By BERNIE PUCHALSKI
Staff Writer

Six days a week students huddle in crowded classrooms attempting to secure a good job in an uncertain economy. Teachers lecture and student participation is nonexistent in a system where only the best continue to post-secondary education.

China's college system is attempting to change its direction and Niagara College is among those helping. Bea Clarke, manager, Ontario Skills Development office, Bill Ford, chairman of the Board of Governors, and his wife Edith, and Ed Wilson, teacher with the general college program, returned in early December after one month of discussing Ontario's college system at Changsha University in China.

"It wasn't a holiday, but it was great to see China," Mr. Wilson said. Although no one can prepare for the culture shock, "it was the trip of a lifetime," Mrs. Clarke said. Mr. Ford said the trip was tiring but "when you're interested, it doesn't become tiring."

"The feedback from the lectures was excellent," Mr. Ford said.

"I was very pleased with the response," Mr. Wilson said.

Impressed

Mrs. Clarke was impressed with the level of questioning. The Chinese were able to "make the leap from what we do as compared to their system," she said.

"Chinese students are intensely interested in obtaining an education," Mr. Ford said. They operate under difficult conditions — schools are unheated and "by our standards many come from impoverished backgrounds."

Students go to school six days a week and "it means a lot to them and their families," Mrs. Clarke said.

"Chinese students are very keen" as only a select few continue on to post-secondary education, Mr. Wilson said.

The Chinese are intrigued by the idea of co-op, Mrs. Clarke said. Co-op in China differs in that "employers expect to be paid when taking a co-op student," Mr. Ford said.

"Students wanted to know everything about Canadian students," Mrs. Clarke said. Mrs. Ford was assigned two English speaking students and she "was



BEA CLARKE

bombarded with questions from morning to night," Mr. Ford said. Students wanted to know what kind of cars students drive and if they like to dance, Mr. Wilson said.

Mr. Ford found the people friendly and he "felt he could walk anywhere in China day or night."

"Chinese people are very hard-working and they work long hours," Mrs. Clarke said. They are family-oriented and "parents really dote on their children."

Since Changsha is in China's interior the people are not exposed to white visitors. "We were stared at but it was not in a rude way," Mr. Ford said. It was Mrs. Clarke's blonde hair that attracted the most attention, he said. The delegation drew crowds when it went in to the store to buy things. "Five or 10 people would sometimes gather when we went in the stores," Mrs. Clarke said.

The group was able to see many fascinating sights like the Forbidden City, Mao Tse-tung's birthplace, the old city of Canton, the Summer Palace, and the Great Wall.

Fantastic

The Great Wall was "fantastic and amazing," Mr. Wilson said. "It was the most magnificent sight I've ever seen. Everything they say about it is true," Mrs. Clarke said. "When you see it stretching into the distance on either side, it's just incredible," Mr. Ford said.

Even walking around the block was interesting, Mrs. Clarke said. Mr. Wilson was impressed with the 2,000-year-old Hon Dynasty woman mummy which they saw at the Changsha museum. "She was quite a sight," he said. Mr. Ford said, "my wife and I like to poke around" and they spent a lot of time just walking around the city.

Canada and China is "the level of affluence," Mr. Wilson said. He said the quality of building was not as good. "It looks like buildings are put up slowly with cement mixed by hand and bamboo scaffolding."

Mr. Ford said there were many differences between China and Canada but "the biggest thing is the poverty coupled with the crowded condition." He said he was amazed how "people were literally being used as beasts of burden." He saw men pulling carts of coal so big that "if they

were horses someone would have called the Humane Society."

The changing government policy towards capitalism was apparent. It's evident in the form of roadside vendors, Mr. Wilson said. He was taken to a farm where the workers were allowed to keep some of the profits.

"I was surprised at the amount of goods available for sale," Mrs. Clarke said. She saw western goods such as Coca Cola in the stores.

One not so pleasant part of the trip was taking car trips in China. They were nearly in a few traffic accidents, Mr. Wilson said. "People drive like mad."

Anytime you get in a car, it's an experience," Mrs. Clarke said. "There were a couple of times where I saw my life pass before my eyes."

Souvenirs

All members of the delegation brought back souvenirs with the favorites being embroidered silk and lacquered boxes. Mrs. Clarke bought a traditional Chinese teacup and chops — similar to bookends but engraved on the bottom. Mr. Wilson brought back a No Smoking sign written in Chinese to put in his office. Mr. Ford bought mainly small things like T-shirts, cigars, cigarettes, bookmarks and an embroidered picture of two pandas.



ED WILSON

French party big success

C'est bon are perhaps the best words to describe the French-language program's annual Christmas Party held at Club Lasalle in St. Catharines.

More than 200 students and 10 instructors attended the party Dec. 16.

"It's very special to learn a language in a group," Michel Parent, co-ordinator of the French-language program said.

The program has nearly 350 part-time students enrolled in nine different levels, according to their abilities.

The dinner served at the party was a pot-luck style meal that started around 6 p.m. Entertainment was provided by the students and instructors with French plays, skits and Christmas songs.

Beware of today, it's the 13th

By MARK TAYTI
Staff Writer

You can bet your black cat that the superstitious among us won't be saying, "Thank God It's Friday" this week. Those who walk around ladders have been dreading today and every other Friday the 13th ever since they were old enough to throw salt over their shoulders.

Perhaps Stevie Wonder summed up the feeling best when he wrote the song, *Superstition*:

*There is superstition,
nothing more to say.
There is superstition,
the devil's on his way.*

Throughout the ages, Fridays and the number 13 have had no luck at all. The two always seem to be at the wrong place at the wrong time, so much so, that when they get together people (or at least those who expect company at the drop of a spoon) expect trouble.

Friday is thought to have got its bad start on the Friday that Christ was crucified, and throughout the centuries, in all countries, the bad Friday myth has continued. Even in astrology Friday is pegged as unlucky. Known as Venus' day, it also signifies the Passion of Christ and the cessation of work.

13 13 13

Sailors, known for being nearly everything but lazy, will never set sail on a Friday. The reason may stem from the time an unsuperstitious person tested the bad Friday theory by sending off a ship named Friday on Friday, captained by a man named Friday. The ship was never seen again.

In 1931 (well into the age of reason), the sailings of two Atlantic liners were postponed from Friday night until one minute after midnight after protests came from a large number of superstitious passengers.

Criminals, or at least the superstitious ones, consider it bad luck to go before a judge on Friday, and highland superstition warns that it is the worst of bad luck to move on a Friday.

So, when it comes to reason, the superstitious are probably the most unreasonable on Friday. On the fifth day of the week, a long list of don'ts force the truly superstitious to pay their dues.

13 13 13

It is unlucky to clip your nails on Friday; it is unlucky to wed on Friday; it is unlucky to turn a bed on Friday, or sleeplessness will be your fate; it is unlucky for a servant to start a new job on Friday; farmers who plant potatoes on Friday can expect a poor crop, and, perhaps worst of all, it is unlucky to be born on Friday.

Regardless of the impending doom associated with Fridays, even superstitious people get used to their phobia when confronted with it every seven days; but Fridays that fall on

the 13th day of the month are particularly ominous to those who shudder at the thought of a bird in the house. The "un-reason" behind this fear is that the number 13 makes Friday seem harmless in comparison.

Some of the foul luck of this odd number is again derived from the time of Christ. During the Last Supper there were 13 at the table — Christ and his 12 disciples. To compound the lucklessness of the number 13, it is associated with the fee of 13 pence which was paid to the hangman at Tyburn, Scotland, and, although the fee was actually 13 ½ pence, the halfpenny was regarded as the price of the rope. The value of the Scots mark, fixed at 13 ½ pence, was sometimes alluded to as hangman's money.

13 13 13

To further tinge the bad reputation of the number 13, the world of the occult favors the dire digits. A coven of witches is made up of 13. In the realm of the sooth-sayer, the 13th Tarot card is the skeleton, the death card.

The Greeks and the Romans both disliked the number 13. Although both nations did not share the same beliefs as the Christians, they still had a foundation on which to base their disdain. The Greek myth concerning the Valhalla Banquet tells how only 12 Gods were invited to the dinner; however, Loki, the God of Mischief and Strife, intruded (making a total of 13), and Balder, the favorite of the Gods, was killed.

Wherever the 13-at-the-table superstition got its start is arguable, but the fear of repeating the dangerous party arrangements survives. Some people (probably the ones who are afraid to put new shoes on the table) believe that when 13 sit together, the first to rise will die before the year is out; others believe the ill fate will fall on the last to rise.

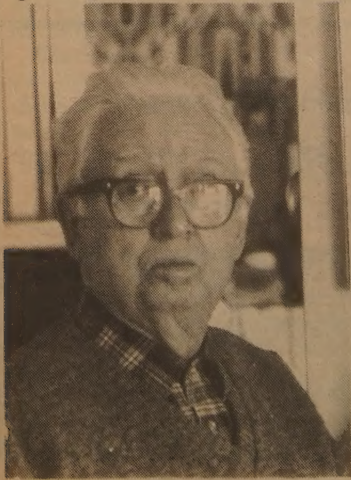
13 13 13

Superstitiousness toward the number 13 manifests itself all through Europe. It is impossible in any French city or town to find a house numbered 13; moreover, French hotels do not have rooms bearing the nefarious number on the door. In addition, it is common to step into nearly any elevator only to find no way of reaching the 13th floor.

After reading the forboding myths about Friday and its troublesome counterpart, the number 13 the superstitious among us probably scurrying for the nearest rabbit's foot, however, you would be far better off going to the nearest record store and picking up a copy of Stevie Wonder's song, *Superstition*. You may find comfort in the lines of the song that follow:

*When you believe in things
that you don't understand,
superstition ain't the way.
Have a good day, and
"Thank God It's Friday."*

BEWARE!



BILL FORD

Self-taught artist realizes fame, paints nature so others see its beauty

By TERRY MOORE
Staff Writer

A wildlife reserve in the midst of an expanding town. It is not a zoo, and the creatures are not living; yet they will be alive forever on the canvasses of artist Vic Gibbons.

Self-taught and with a natural sense of color harmony, he is a born painter who is rapidly becoming one of the most sought after Canadian wildlife artists. Today his prints and originals grace private collections in North America, South America and Europe.

"I've always wanted to be an artist — that was my goal in life," the youthful 55-year-old painter said from his gallery in Simcoe, Ont. He gave up a 20-year career at Ontario Hydro to further pursue his painting.

"I didn't want to flop, so I kept painting until I felt I was good enough for the professional market. When you quit your job, you're painting solely to survive. All of a sudden it's amateur to professional — even in the people's eyes you know."

He has painted professionally for 15 years now, and in 1981 he opened his own gallery. The same year, Mr. Gibbons submitted his work to what is probably the largest non-commercial strictly art show in North America at Buckhorn, Ont., 25 miles north of Peterborough.

Attention

The four-day event in August, open to 100 artists by invitation only, this year drew 40,000 people from around the world, and marked his seventh in the event that grabbed him the nation's — and the world's — attention.

Turn back the clock, however, to a time when he was part of an amateur group selling its work from a park in Toronto or York.

"Once I sold a little painting of some pansies for \$15, so we ate out that night — that was really something."

"Now it's how big do you want to get. My name is growing so fast...you dream of being great at your profession, and when it happens, you get in demand. It's like snapping your fingers — like getting into Buckhorn."

Mr. Gibbons realized his desire to express his inner self on canvas after he and his family moved from Longueuil, Que., to Simcoe. Two years later, at age 16, he got a job to pay for an artist's course, but baseball and hockey interests won out, and he didn't finish it.

Birches

After he was married, he began oil painting — an oil of a tiger was his first original. Now he incorporates both animal and plant kingdoms, often including his beloved birches — "a kind of trademark of mine."

He began his career at a time when artists were considered "kind of flaky — even to have an art show was difficult. Sometimes I wonder what people had on their walls back then."

His career got its start at the same local fair that deigned to award second prize to this year's exquisite Northern Delight.

Referring to that first entry, Mr. Gibbons said, "It was



Vic Gibbons, who says he can work four hours and it seems like one, displays one of his latest works, the prize-winning Northern Delight, at his recent Christmas showing. Mr. Gibbons, whose paintings

span the globe, feels remaining in Simcoe has set his career back five or six years, but he said he prefers the quieter life. His work is being shown in St. Catharines. Photo by Terry Moore

something I was talked into, but when people encourage you, why, you feel you must have something."

To create his work, he uses photographs, sketches, but mainly his own keen memory.

"When you love your work so much, you gear yourself. You see a birch tree with a lean on it or an old dead tree, you really remember those things." He said he doesn't have to go far to see beauty when St. Williams, a small community near Lake Erie, is nearby. "We have so much here that we're lucky."

From his paintings he's pointed out several items he's drawn from his environment — an old shed, now gone, but immortalized on canvas, and his own horse, featured in a scene with a blacksmith.

Some subjects, such as blue-jays, he finds in his own backyard. He can also choose to paint any one of his neighbors' 10,000 pheasants. A biologist in the United States supplies him with photos of wolves and moose. With his paintbrush he does, indeed, possess those creatures. They are his.

Accomplishment

"My aim is to create realistic paintings to enable others to see the beauty I see in wildlife and landscape," he said. "If I can do a piece people can enjoy and relax with, it gives me a feeling of accomplishment — it's a heck of an honor for somebody to buy a piece of your work." His work is indeed magical. There is a sensation about it that a creature will move, or a leaf will flutter from a tree. Although his scenes are natural, they are sometimes partially composed.

"You have to make the scene attractive so people accept it. You have to paint for the love of painting, but you have to sell. You have to be a businessman as well as an artist."

Stressing the need to build a name, Mr. Gibbons said, "There's an awful lot of talented kids out there; an awful lot of artists out there better than I am, but with

no name."

Another famous artist's works are shown in his gallery — those of Robert Bateman, who he said has "broken the ice, and opened

the door for people like myself, but my gallery is becoming overstocked with other artists...people are coming in here mainly to buy my work.

Students to receive 'peak' talk

Prospective entrepreneurs and other ambitious students have a unique opportunity to learn about motivation from a prominent speaker on the college and corporate business circuit next Thursday.

Gregory Cleary, president of Peak Performance, a company which presents motivational lectures, presented by the college Entrepreneur Club, will address the problems of motivation and the secrets of success for entrepreneurs in the Hamilton Room at 7 p.m.

Michael Ferreri, spokesman for the club, said he has seen Mr. Cleary speak before and was impressed by what he heard.

"He is fascinating to hear. But he's not just someone to hear, he is someone to learn from."

Michael said Mr. Cleary's lecture is ideal for ambitious people and those who are unsure of their future.

"He gives direction for those who don't know exactly what they want yet."

Mr. Cleary has spoken at Niagara before. Tickets are available at the Student Administrative Council office for \$5 for students, \$10 for others.

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Juice Pigs tickle fans at free comedy pub

By ELAINE WILSON
Staff Writer

When a cow laughs, does milk come out of its nose, too?

This question with other tidbits of hilarity were part of the college's comedy pub presented by the Student Administrative Council in the cafeteria Wednesday night.

Though this was another pub marred by poor attendance, the 80 people who did attend got what SAC promised — the chance to laugh their faces off.

The show, with host comedian Howard Nemetz, featured three other performers: Mike Wilmont, Kevin McGrath and the expressive and demented humor of Corky and the Juice Pigs, headlining for the evening.

SAC was looking forward to a packed house after handing out free tickets throughout the college two days before the pub.

Felix Lostracco, social convener, was especially disappointed with the turnout.

"Originally, we planned to charge \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door," Felix said. "But because of poor advance sales (only one ticket was sold), SAC decided that they would take the loss for the pub and give the tickets away."

500 TICKETS

He said about 500 tickets were handed out to what seemed like an excited college community.

One comedian suggested that, if those in attendance told two friends, and they told two friends, maybe they could get 60 people next time.

The evening began with host Howard sparring with a few hecklers in the crowd; he even took a shot at a certain reporter after some members of the audience — whom she used to call her friends — made certain unrepeatable lies about promiscuity.

Nothing was sacred to Howard, following the style of comedian Steven Wright, who spoke briefly about the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"I only went to one Leaf game," he said. "When I got there, there were many scalpers asking, 'Who needs Leaf tickets?' Then I thought, 'Yeah, he's right.' So I left!"

TURNED AROUND

But the evening turned around completely when Corky and the

Juice Pigs arrived; the group comprises Sean Cullen, Joe Costa and guitarist Phil Nichol, who threw the crowd into hysterics with songs like Oklahomo, routines about Elvis, and an impromptu bit which included audience members illustrating the sexual fantasies of some citizens of, say, San Francisco.

Songs in their repertoire included Too Many Children, Not Enough Guns; I Wanna Be Elvis Presley; their rock and roll anthem, Young and Stupid, and the protest song, Nazis Aren't So Bad.

Corky and the Juice Pigs are a trio not to be missed if they come around these parts again.



CORKY AND THE JUICE PIGS



From Page One

Budget

possible ways to achieve this, the Budget Planning Committee, comprising employees and one student, suggested paid parking, the sale or development of the St. Catharines campus and land on the Welland campus, and improved enrolment.

The committee also recommended that costs might be cut through things such as increasing section sizes, not replacing retiring staff and cutting services.

The committee's recommendations are being reviewed by the President's Operating Committee. Members are Jacqueline Robarts, college president; Mr. van der Slagt, and Dr. Tony Knowles, vice-president of academics.

POC will give the Budget Committee "an opportunity to comment on it," Mr. van der Slagt said. He is hopeful the final budget will be brought to the Board of Governors by the beginning of February.

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From Mack Centre



Four nursing students pose in the training lab at the Mack School of Nursing. They expect to help alleviate the critical shortage of Registered Nurses in Canada, when they graduate in two years. Pic-

tured from left to right are, Mark Demaiter, Jim Westley, Derek Christensen, and Emmanuel Egamino.

Photo by Blair Burgess

Male students comfortable in female-dominated career

BY BLAIR BURGESS
Staff Writer

Being one of seven men in a program with more than 100 females may be every collegiate's dream, but four first-year males nursing students at Niagara take it in stride.

"I don't notice anything different," Jim Westley, 30, who hopes to eventually work in the north or overseas, said. "We all depend on each other. It helps us develop a sense of responsibility."

Emmanuel Egamino, 22, said he feels a change only when he has his uniform on while in the St. Catharines General Hospital two days a week.

"There's a little more pressure on us, but it all seems to be curiosity," he said. "There's no discrimination against male nurses — but I think there used to be."

Nineteen-year-old Mark Demaiter said he is the only male in his sociology class.

"Any puns are usually directed toward me," he said with a laugh. "But it's all in fun. I have a good time."

Derek Christensen, 21, is confident of his future as a Registered Nurse. After spending a couple of years in the military reserves after high school, he's excited.

"There's great opportunity for nurses," he said. "The door's wide open in Canada and the United States."

Advantage

Two first-year female nursing students have no qualms about having men in the program. In fact, they're happy to see them enter a predominately female occupation. They even see a slight advantage for male graduates.

"We've been told that the males advance into administrative positions a lot quicker," Cindy Park, a first-year student, said.

The four men agree the nursing centre, one of the oldest in North America, is tough for both male and female students.

It's a mental roller coaster," Jim said. "Some days you just want to quit, especially when you have to face two to four hours of homework after a bad day."

They all talked as if homework was a mistress and girlfriends faint memories. Two to four hours a night is the norm.

"A big part of it is looking up information and trying to grasp theory," Mark, an avid motocross enthusiast who hasn't heard the roar of his bike lately, said.

Emmanuel, who quit a part-time job with Videoflicks when the workload intensified, said it's hard to talk about the psychological strains associated with the program to anybody not experiencing it.

Encourages

"It's hard for others to understand what you're going through."

The centre recognizes the added responsibilities placed on nursing students and encourages open discussion each day at "nost conferences."

The stresses and homework may seem great now, but they know it's something they'll have to get used to — hospital RN's are taking on more and more responsibility each year.

"There's a movement now to get rid of registered nurses assistants (RNA's) in hospitals because RN's can provide better quality care," Jim said. "Instead of being in charge of eight patients, the RN will be in charge of 14, without any extra pay."

Non-university educated nurses may also be a thing of the past in Canadian hospitals, again the push for quality care the reason. The young men, however, don't believe this will ever happen because of the serious nursing shortage in North America. More importantly, they believe the quality of college-produced nurses is comparable, if not better than, university counterparts.

"This course will prepare us very well," said Derek, who has

little time for anything else. "It's very practical and we'll have to perform to graduate."

With over two years to go, it may look like an uphill struggle through such courses as biological science, developmental psychology, pathophysiology and a minimum of 1,625 hours of clinical experience — but these men are determined to make it as much as their female counterparts.

Classified

CUSO will be host to a Public Information Meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m., in the Rotary Room, St. Catharines Public Library, Church Street near James. A slide/tape show on Papua, New Guinea, will be shown and job opportunities in developing countries will be discussed. Everyone welcome.



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Mack students voice activity fee concerns

By BLAIR BURGESS
Staff Writer

Students in the St. Catharines-based nursing program claim they aren't getting much in return for the \$70 in student fees they pay annually. Most activities and the buildings used to facilitate them are centralized to the Welland campus, two students said in an interview Monday.

"The only thing we get out of the fees is a \$2 student card," Cindy Park, first-year student, said. "I'd say one per cent of us use the activity buildings on the Welland campus."

Cindy, with fellow first-year student Shelly Hubbard, cited problems facing nursing students:

- A lack of available parking.
- A gym used for a classroom.
- One basketball hoop and no balls.
- A library that closes at 4:30 p.m. daily and is closed on weekends.

NEED ACTIVITIES

Both women said many of the nursing students need more activities available to them in St. Catharines.

"They could use some of our student fees to rent a gym once a week," Cindy said. "I'm sure we'd get a lot of people out."

Shelly said she studies at the Brock University library when the nursing library is closed.

Both said many nursing students find themselves alienated from main campus activities.

"We only go to the Welland campus to pay fees and buy books," they said.

"I wouldn't have known David Wilcox was coming to the (Welland campus) if a friend hadn't told me," Shelly said.

Randy Conlon, SAC president, said satellite campuses receive a percentage of student fees for their own activities.

"Twenty-five dollars of the \$70 fee is allotted in the program," he said. "If there's 500 students, that's 500 times \$25."

"They spend it on whatever they want, as long as they have a good reason."

Randy said SAC is trying its best to publicize events to the other campuses, but admits geography doesn't help things.

"They are more than welcome on this campus," he said. "They've been getting posters, but it's up to them to put them up."

Jacqueline Roberts, college president, said a lot of the isolation problems stem from geography.

"It's very difficult for them to come to this campus."

She is sympathetic about the short library hours, but said that it all comes down to finances.

"It's purely a financial situation — in the considered opinion of the librarian, she couldn't afford to keep it open."

"We've had a directive that says because of a lack of money, we might have to cut the hours of the main campus library also."

Randy said the parking problem has existed for a number of years.

"For the last four years or so we've been trying to do something about parking and there's absolutely nothing we can do. It's a city bylaw, and besides it's not SAC's responsibility — it's the administration's."

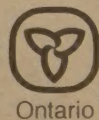
Jan. 24 talk

Dina Tobar, a Salvadoran who has spent eight years in refugee camps in Honduras, will describe conditions in El Salvador and Honduras at meetings to be held in Welland and St. Catharines.

She will be accompanied by representatives from the Jesuit Centre and Oxfam.

The meetings, which are free, will be held Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, 83 Church St., St. Catharines; and Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 90 Griffith St., Welland.

More information can be obtained by phoning 685-8916 or 735-8640.



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Lyn McLeod, Minister



"Twenty years of Quality Care." Amelia Szczykutowicz, Manager of the Early Childhood Centre poses with four of "her" children, from right, Noah Shayka, Trent Richardson, Serena Ivanovskis, Jennifer Lepere. Four days this week Early Childhood has been celebrating its 20th anniversary with an open house.

Photo by Eric Beyer

Impending sale

Welding program may disappear

By THERESA BOUDREAU
Staff Writer

Only "one third" of the \$1.5 million equipment is being used from the welding program at the St. Catharines campus, Dave Oscvirk, teaching master of the welding program, said.

This is the first year the program has not been funded by the federal or provincial government. The only full-time welding program, steel fitter welding, is filled with 27 fee-paying students. The program also caters to part-time continuing education and five apprenticeship programs.

To get Niagara College out of its deficit situation, "one of the board's alternatives is to sell the St. Catharines facility," George

Rowbottom, chairman of the Resource Centre for Skills Development, said. "If that happens, there is a good chance we might lose the welding shop — due to the cost of moving." The 18,000-square-foot shop is a separate building at the St. Catharines campus.

In 1984, the \$1.3 million expansion at the St. Catharines campus brought more sophisticated equipment to the welding program and high hopes it would stay competitive in the welding industry.

The part-time apprenticeship programs offered are mainly registered seats, which are sponsored by the Ministry of Skills Development. These programs include — industrial maintenance mechanic, advanced and basic

programs; automotive repair service, four hours weekly during the day; contract apprenticeship, advanced and intermediate programs; motor vehicle mechanic, evening program; and industrial mechanic mill wright, evening program.

Mr. Rowbottom said the apprentice programs run no longer than 10 weeks; therefore, there is only enough time to learn the basics — that is why a lot of the equipment does not get used.

"There have been a number of students who have gone into secure jobs from this program," Mr. Oscvirk said. "Some are working at industries such as Foster Wheeler, General Motors, and John Deere."

College bankrolls quitters

Smokers promise to squelch the desire to smoke "calmly and comfortably" by Feb. 9. The program — free to students and full-time staff — begins next Wednesday and runs for four weeks, open to people who "have enough willpower to come to our meeting," the promotional pamphlet reads.

The college hired Smokenders to assist those "who really want to stop smoking" after the Board of Governors ruled that the college must offer smoke cessation programs free of charge to accompany the new policy of smoking in designated areas only which started Jan. 2. A complete ban will be in place Sept. 5.

Smokenders are charging the college \$158.50 per person providing it attracts more than 50 participants; the price will rise considerably if it fails to interest more employees and students.

Smokenders boasts of more than 500,000 successful smokers who have butted out since 1969.

Introductory meetings for Smokenders took place Monday to Thursday of this week.

Irene goes forward despite obstacles

By MARK TAYTI
Staff Writer

Everyone has a word that is hard to pronounce: anesthesiologist, chrysanthemum, aluminum...you get the idea.

Irene Ploszczcansky knows the feeling. Irene has Cerebral Palsy, and every word that passes her lips is heard as an undecipherable grunt or groan.

She's a wonderful person to talk to once a person gets used to how her Bliss Board works. Irene speaks several languages — Ukrainian, Polish, Yugoslavian and English — but the language she uses in one-on-one conversation is uttered through a communicating device called a Bliss Board; it's a card with letters, numbers and short words, and Irene uses this card to wrestle out every word.

Anybody who sits on the other side of her Bliss Board for a while will no doubt wonder what it must feel like to be disabled.

"I don't know what it feels like," Irene said. "I have been disabled all my life. I do not feel disabled in what I do."

Don't stare

Although her bliss board takes care of casual conversation, Irene likes to be able to voice her opinion to larger audiences, too, so she types. For the past 10 years she has been writing a column, Don't Stare — But Do, for the Niagara Falls Review. She writes three other columns in newspapers for the disabled; she is the author of a book, "A Disabled With C.P. Is A Human Being."

She said the things she hates the most about her trips to the college are the people who stare.

"I am not mental, but a lot of people think I am."

Irene is a second-year Ontario Basic Skills student who is attending Niagara to get her grade 12 diploma. She comes from Niagara Falls every day by cab; at school she gets around in a wheelchair. In the future, she said she would like to hold a position in public relations and do fundraising for the handicapped.

"I feel the disabled should do

more to help themselves." How does she feel when she sees a disabled person who doesn't want to help himself? "I could kill."

She needs 11 more credits before she will get her Grade 12 diploma. Her efforts towards helping the disabled have won her the Queen's Medal, the Vanier Award, and the Award of Merit from the Ontario March of Dimes.

Organizer

Irene is a skilled organizer who has recently committed herself to raising money for a van that will later be donated to Tanguay Place, a home for the severely disabled in Welland. At present, she is corresponding with the Student Administrative Council to gain the support of SAC and the student body. The van would allow the residents of the home to get out more. Two other handicapped OBS students live at Tanguay Place and the van could help them get to school.

Irene said coming to school at Niagara is great. She likes the fact that the school has a special needs program.

"I have found the service useful already. The program will encourage other disabled people to come to school."

What else can be done to help disabled people at Niagara feel more comfortable? As Irene struggles along to give the answer, she contorts and twists and fumbles, but her answer is sound when it arrives. There is nothing wrong with her mind, it's her body that is giving her all the problems. Slowly, her will overpowers her stubborn frame, and the answer finally materializes on the bliss board: "T-H-E-Y can A-C-C-E-P-T us as P-E-O-P-L-E."

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call life
"The Survival of
the Fittest".
You know, a lot
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4th prize in national competition goes to continuing education jingle

Peter Webb, liaison officer in contract services, recently won fourth place in a National Radio Jingle contest sponsored by Sony and Mitsubishi. He entered an advertising jingle written to promote contract services.

Mr. Webb said the 30-second musical advertisement was "written in a flash," to be played during Professional Development day last winter. An ad in a publishing magazine prompted Mr. Webb to enter the tune in a nationally advertised jingle contest held in

Montreal.

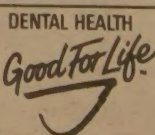
"I was very surprised with winning," Mr. Webb said. "It's put me on track to do more jingles." When he is not working at the college, Mr. Webb composes music and markets it through his company which takes the name Composure.

The jingle was judged out of 64 entries. Mr. Webb won a Sony CamCorder, and a Mitsubishi in-car telephone for placing fourth in the competition.

"There's been a good response

around the college over it," Mr. Webb said. "It's the first jingle that I have ever written."

And, what was the Jingle?
When only the best will do
We will take care of you
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Sports

Hard-hitting hockey Knights win big in 1st 1989 game

By BILL SAWCHUK
Staff Writer

Neither the Niagara Knights nor the Conestoga Condors played as if the 5-3 Knights' victory Saturday night was an exhibition game.

In a game that was supposed to allow the two teams to work off the rust acquired from too much Christmas turkey, referee Bob Kennedy whistled 138 minutes in penalties in the physical contest.

"They always play us tough," coach Fred Bassi said after the game. "They are not a bad team. They have lost three games in overtime and could surprise someone in the playoffs."

The Knights locked up the game in the second period taking a 5-1 lead and, except for some powerplay opportunities, were never really challenged by the Condors on the scoreboard; however, Conestoga would not physically back down and some Knights' retaliation allowed them to make the game respectable.

The Knights opened the scoring only 1:32 into the game on a goal by newcomer Dan Pidgeon assisted by Mike Martineau and Shawn Sexton.

STEALS PUCK

Stu Gallardi made it 2-0 stealing the puck and beating Conestoga goalie Terry Davis between the legs for a breakaway goal that rounded out the first period scoring.

Pat Vandermeer made it 3-0 at 16:29 of the second period when he put in a rebound off the end boards with Jamie MacCaskill and Ken Bilodeau assisting.

Conestoga's Dave Mills replied

before Vandermeer got his second of the night from Jamie MacCaskill and Blake Sawyer and Nick Macken rounded out the goal scoring for the Knights with assists going to Ken Bilodeau and Shawn Sexton.

The Knights gave all three of their goaltenders work to get them ready for the second half of the schedule with Jim Darling playing the first period, Dino Patitucci the second and Brian Collins in the third.

PENALTY PROBLEMS

Penalties plagued the Knights in the third period and cost them two goals as Conestoga could mount little offence when not on the powerplay.

"Penalties always hurt us," Mr. Bassi said. But, he hopes the team "will not be as erratic" as the season wears on.

Leading the penalty parade were cantankerous Brian Rome with 23 minutes and tenacious checker Shawn Sexton who received a five-minute match penalty for spearing.

Conestoga capitalized on their third period chances with powerplay goals by Rob Datz and Sean McQuigge.

Goalie Brian Collins played well in the third period facing 20 shots. In an eight-second span he trapped a hard blast from the point with his leg, made stand-up save after the ensuing faceoff, and, only three seconds later, had a shot hit the post.

KNIGHT MOVES: Conestoga coach Dan Young was ejected from the game with 3:32 left as he let his temper get the best of him and refused to let a questionable call go... the Knights now prepare

to resume regular season play with a rematch against the University of Buffalo Saturday Jan. 14 at Sabreland in Amherst, N.Y.... Niagara handed UB its only loss of the season with a 7-1 drubbing before Christmas.

New season looks great

In their first exhibition tournament of 1989, the eight remaining women's volleyball Knights played an outstanding three-match series last Saturday.

Against a visiting team from Grande Prairie, Alta, Coach Judy Halaiko said, "It was the best game I have ever seen my team play." Although scores were 15-13 and 17-15 in the Wolves' favor, it was the only best-of-two the Knights lost. "Not one other team even got three points on them. They are a really strong team. But we played really well."

They met Redeemer Royals, Ancaster, in their first match of the day and it appeared to have been a long holiday away from the court for them. They were a little rough around the edges to start and could not seem to hold service until they came from behind, 10-1, to totally outplay and outclass the Royals and defeat them 15-11.

The third and final match of the day didn't last 20 minutes. The Knights walked all over Lambton Lions, 15-11 and 15-3.

If anyone is interested in joining the winning women's volleyball team, practices are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4:45.



Knights win 5-4

The action was hot and heavy in the hockey Knights' first exhibition game of the new year as they defeated Conestoga College of Kitchener 5-2 last Saturday night at the Welland Arena. A Knight forward tries to control the puck after a scramble in front of the Condor goal. The Knights have a heated rivalry with the only other Canadian team in the International Collegiate Hockey League, Conestoga, who they defeated in the first game of the year earlier in the fall. The league is made up of teams from Buffalo State, the University of Buffalo, Erie Community College, Penn State, and the University of Rochester plus Niagara and Conestoga. The Knights return to action this Saturday in Amherst, New York, against the University of Buffalo, and then travel to Erie Community College for a game in Orchard Park, New York, on Wednesday Jan. 18.

Photo by Bill Sawchuk

NATIONAL NON-SMOKING WEEK

JANUARY 11-18

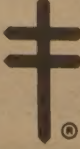
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Sports

Hockey reveals our national identity

By BILL SAWCHUK
Staff Writer

The Russians have made their annual jaunt to Canada to fatten the coffers of the Soviet Ice Hockey Federation and by observing others, we can learn something about ourselves and our game: we simply play with more heart.

On the surface, it doesn't seem possible. The determination, speed, strength, and fearlessness needed to play go against the stereotype of the typical Canadian: conservative, quiet, somewhat apathetic. But, we do a Jekyll and Hyde imitation when we hit the ice.

The weather breeds this toughness. It is not the same toughness of an American who wears his nationalism on his sleeve and will prove it by bombing Arab countries which it doesn't agree with or invading any small Caribbean island that would have the nerve to allow Cuban (dirty socialists that they are) workers to build a runway for jet aircraft.

No, it is a conservative toughness that comes from the Canadian winter. You can't be flashy or flamboyant to survive winter and the socially levelling experience of being sprayed with slush isn't going to convince you that you are the human race's last, best hope. However, it will build an inner fortitude.

It takes determination just to play the game — and in some instances just to survive.

The game is important. For some it is the only chance for a meaningful career. A way to escape the mill town, acquire self-confidence and, if the natural gifts and desire are there, make a lot of money. For the very few like Paul Henderson or the Rocket or the Great One or the Flower, it is a chance to create a place in history for themselves, to transcend their generation and make themselves immortal.

We take as our own their accomplishments and yet, if you look around your neighborhood, you can see the other end of the scale. Where rather than cheering fans interrupting the game, cars interrupt by forcing the net to be moved.

This is hockey at its lowest, most wonderful, form: on the street after school. It is just as demanding with the dangers of frost bite and bruised shins. Small bodies are bundled up against the cold wind to play for an hour or two until supper. And if you listen carefully you can usually hear the play-by-play much the same as you could at the Gardens as the temporary Wayne Gretzkys and Mario Lemieuxs control the puck to the sound of "he shoots, he scores."

Hockey means as much to these Canadians and is played with the same spirit as the men in the NHL — if not more. That is the whole secret to Canadian hockey. It is why we excel; and collectively revel in the accomplishments of our heroes. The game means a lot to us.



Rick Vaive, the Sabres newest addition, heads up ice Monday night in Memorial Auditorium during the Sabres 6-5 overtime victory over the Soviet Red Army. On a SAC trip, 35 Niagara students were in

Buffalo to take in the action. The students enthusiasm was matched by the superb play in the ice.

Photo by Bill Sawchuk

SAC excursion lets students see Soviet Red Army team

By ELAINE WILSON
Staff Writer

Most people thought it would be a cold day in Minsk before the Buffalo Sabres would defeat the Soviet Red Army team. Well, break out the balaclavas, comrades!

About 35 people attended the spirited hockey game on a trip sponsored by the Niagara College Student Administrative Council and ventured to America as Canadian ambassadors of goodwill to watch the Americans reign victorious over the Soviets 6-5 in overtime.

But to some of the people who attended the hockey spectacle, it was more than just a game; it was a chance to see the world famous Red Army team — some of the best hockey players in the world — in all of their glory.

WINNING GOAL

For a while it appeared as if the Sabres would lose to the mighty Soviets, squandering a three-goal lead going into the second period; the Soviets roared back tying the contest at five, sending the game into overtime. It wasn't until 2:20 into the extra period that Ken Priestley scored the winning goal for the Sabres.

Despite the propaganda pamphlets distributed by some anti-Soviet groups, the game was essentially non-political; the competition did not pit the capitalist ideology against the communist theory — it was simply hockey at a great international level. Even though most of the crowd raised

banners for the home team, the visitors were not without a cheering section; their fervor for the Soviets most likely stems from a deep respect for the finest group

of hockey players in the Soviet Union.

It was a chance of a lifetime for most of the spectators at the Aud, and they weren't disappointed.



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Sports

Knights get flat result in weekend tourney

By BILL SAWCHUK
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team got the year off to a slow start losing eight of 10 games on the weekend.

The Knights played an exhibition game Friday night in Welland against Grand Prairie College from Alberta and an exhibition tournament at Mohawk College in Hamilton.

"The whole team was flat," coach Ray Sarkis said. "I'm very disappointed. We were taught a lesson."

Friday night, the Knights played a much more experienced and disciplined team and lost three straight games.

Mr. Sarkis feels the top volleyball in Canada is played in Alberta. The national team trains there giving the sport more exposure and the Alberta government gives \$1,100 in scholarships to students who play varsity sports.

"The coach can pick and choose his team," Mr. Sarkis said. "They had 12 players on a team and the two lineups they put on the court could play."

WAS READY

On Saturday, the Knights met Grand Prairie in the first match of the tournament and this time the team was ready.

After falling behind in the first game 11-4, the Knights rallied and ended up losing 15-13 to the powerful Albertans in a "hard fought game."

The Knights upset Grand Prairie in the second game of the match 15-9.

Marc Sigouin led the Knights'

offence in the game with nine kills with Jim Miller chipping in four.

Against Durham College, the Knights again failed to play up to the coaches' expectations as they fell 7-15 and 5-15.

"We got no blocking, no setting, no passing," Mr. Sarkis said. "It was a total disaster."

SEVERAL ABSENT

Part of the problem for the Knights was the absence and injury of several key players.

Marc Sigouin missed Friday night's match, and Chris Mudjar missed the weekend action as did Warren Currell. Brian McDonald was forced to play the games with a knee injury that turned out to be strained ligaments.

In the third match of the tournament, the Knights split with Erindale, a club team, 15-17 and 15-11.

"Even though we beat them, we didn't play well," Mr. Sarkis said.

Dave Hartmann led the Knights to their victory with 11 kills and Jim Miller added 10. On defence, the top blocker was Jim Miller with five blocks.

Mr. Sarkis didn't feel the Christmas break had anything to do with the team's poor showing and added, "It's no excuse, we were just flat."

Niagara's final match of the tournament was against Alumni team from Sheridan College who beat the Knights 2-15 and 9-15.

"The team was made up of players who won the Canadian College championship a few years ago and were very strong," Mr. Sarkis said.

The volleyball Knights return to action Jan. 28 for a tournament at Redemeer College in Ancaster.

By FRAN YANOR
Staff Writer

Of all the college's varsity teams, Niagara is probably best known for the success of its National Doubles Championship team from 1985 to 1987.

Tom Peets and Mark Nelson, the latter now Niagara's badminton coach, won the national championships three years in a row and the provincials four years in a row. A success that remains unequalled by anyone else in the country, Steve Tucker, director of competition for the Ontario Badminton Association (OBA), said.

Despite this, the sport continues to be underrated and overlooked. To most, the word badminton summons up images of a soft, effortless game played by those not athletic enough to excel in a "real" sport. This could not be further from the truth, Mr. Nelson said. "These guys work just as hard as any varsity team. People think just because it's badminton you don't work out."

This common misconception stems from lack of exposure and localization of tournaments, Mr.

Tucker said. Most badminton enthusiasts — about 45,000 to 80,000 in the province — only play at a local level within their clubs. "With this tendency....most people only remember how it was played in high school."

This may soon change with the 1987 announcement that badminton will be a full medal sport in the Olympics. "It has given the sport the opportunity to gain the right (recognition) that we think it should have."

Olympic hopes

"As Olympic awareness increases we're hoping it's going to garner a higher acknowledgement from the private and especially the corporate sector," Mr. Tucker said. The OBA is interested in coordinating more tournaments with local clubs. In this way they are better serving their "grassroots" players and will "make our elite athletic programs grow to the point where we'll reach our goal to have at least two Ontario athletes representing

Canada in the Olympics in Barcelona."

To achieve this, badminton needs to attract sponsors as tennis has. Mr. Tucker believes badminton "has a high social aspect as well as high corporate appeal," that will make corporations want to be involved in sponsorship.

The participation of veteran players like Mr. Nelson is also conducive to the prosperity of the sport. It is necessary "to continue to get them to give back to the sport" to help others as they were helped at one time or another. Mr. Nelson umpires at some tournaments as well as coaching the college team.

He and co-coach Mark Liho have begun the season with success as their women's doubles won the first tournament of the year, a positive start that may help to bring some long overdue attention to a deserving sport.





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